


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: March 25, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Friday Report 
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 3/28/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoning and Planning Committee, 7:45 p.m., Room 222
Tuesday 3/29/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Real Property Reuse Committee, 7:45 p.m., Room 209
Wednesday 3/30/11	
Thursday 3/31/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newton Corner Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Evans Park in Newton Corner, 430 Centre St.• Austin Street Joint Advisory Planning Group, 7:45 p.m., Newton Senior Center

- **Zoning & Planning Committee:** The Committee will hold a **Working Session** on **Monday, March 28**, at 7:45 p.m., Room 202, Newton City Hall to discuss items **#17-11**, Terrence P. Morris, Joseph Porter, Bruce Bradford, George Collins, Verne T. Porter, Jr., Michael Peirce proposing an amendment revising the definition of "Grade Plane" and adding a new definition for "Average Grade"; **#65-11**, Terrence P. Morris & Joseph Porter proposing an amendment to the zoning ordinance to change the definition and regulation of "height" and to make height exceptions in accessory buildings subject to special permit rather than a variance; **#81-11**, Aldermen Johnson, Crossley, Hess-Mahan, Lappin & Danberg requesting the Director of Planning & Development and the Chair of the Zoning Reform Scoping Group provide updates on the Scoping Group's Progress; **#49-11**, Ald. Johnson on behalf of the Zoning and Planning Committee requesting that the Director of Planning & Development and Commissioner of Inspectional Services review with the Zoning & Planning Committee data concerning the new FAR rules collected to date. **For more information, contact Jen Molinsky at 617.796.1130 or jmolinsky@newtonma.gov or Seth Zeren at 617.796.1145 or szeren@newtonma.gov.**
- **Real Property Reuse Committee:** The Committee will meet on **Tuesday, March 29** at 7:45 p.m. in Room 209 to consider the following requests: **#90-11**, to transfer use of Newton Corner Library to the Department of Parks and Recreation; **#33-11**, to make available for lease or sale a 15'x55' parcel of land located at 145-147 Chapel Street. **Contact Candace Havens at 617.796.1137 or chavens@newtonma.gov.**
- **Newton Corner Advisory Committee:** The Committee is scheduled to meet on **Thursday, March 31** at 6:30 p.m. in the Activity Room at Evans Park in Newton Corner (430 Centre Street). Agenda items include updates on active CDBG-funded projects: *Farlow Park & Chaffin Park Improvements, Newton Corner Pedestrian Safety Improvements, Charlesbank Park Improvements, Newton Corner Tree Plantings and Church Street Traffic Calming.* **Contact Danielle Bailey at 617.796.1139 or dbailey@newtonma.gov.**

- **Joint Advisory Planning Group for Austin Street Reuse:** The JAPG will hold its first meeting on **Thursday, March 31** at 7:45 p.m. in the Senior Center at 345 Walnut Street in to consider future use of the Austin Street Parking Lot in Newtonville. The agenda includes introduction of members and organizational matters in preparation for future meetings to evaluate site options. **Contact Candace Havens at 627.796.1137 or chavens@newtonma.gov.**
- **Community Preservation Committee:** The Committee's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 6th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton Senior Center (345 Walnut Street, Newtonville). The agenda includes pre-proposals for Newton's next **Open Space Plan** and for housing for adults with disabilities at **173 Lincoln Street** (Newton Highlands), and updates on several **Historic Newton** proposals & projects: exterior preservation of the **Jackson Homestead**, remodeling to improve the museum's accessibility and the usability of the its **Archives**, and fundraising and construction for the Durant-Kenrick Homestead. Full agendas and proposals are online from www.newtonma.gov/cpa, or **contact Alice Ingerson at 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.**
- **Save CDBG!** At the Newton Community Service Center Monday, March, 14, Mayor Warren held a roundtable discussion with Congressman Barney Frank to promote the accomplishments of the Newton Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in the wake of a 63 percent cut that has been proposed at the federal level. Currently the City of Newton receives approximately \$2.4 million in CDBG funds annually. A 63 percent cut would decrease the City's total allocation to just over \$900,000. At the roundtable representatives from the Senior Center, the Newton Weston Wellesley Committee, Newton Community Service Center, and the Newton Community Development Foundation spoke about the many ways the CDBG funds they receive through the City benefit the community. To see a short video of the roundtable event published by Patch please visit the following website: <http://newton.patch.com/articles/video-mayor-joins-barney-frank-in-community-rally-for-cdbg#video-5270175>

How can you help? Please visit the National Community Development Association's website to sign on to the Save CDBG Petition: <http://www.ncdaonline.org/cdbgp petition.asp>

More about the programs and projects funded through the CDBG program can be found in the City's FY12 Draft Annual Action Plan: <http://www.newtonma.gov/Planning/Special-reports/Draft%20FY12%20AAP.pdf>